Young Faculty Award 2012
DARPA-RA-12-12 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Q: What is the projected period of performance timeline for DARPA-RA-12-12?

A: The timeline for award decisions is not determinable at this time.

2. Q: Do all online proposal submissions to the RA have to go through grants.gov?

A: Yes. The RA must be submitted through http://www.grants.gov/ or in hardcopy. Please note, DARPA-RA-12-12 requirements for 2 separate volumes for technical and cost must be adhered to via submissions to http://www.grants.gov/.

3. Q: I am [a non-U.S. citizen/a Permanent Resident/here on a Green Card/etc.]; can I apply to YFA? Do I need to be able to obtain a security clearance to be eligible for YFA?

A: There is no language in the RA prohibiting a non-U.S. citizen/Permanent Resident/person here on a Green Card/etc. from applying to this RA; all such persons MAY apply to this RA. It is NOT a requirement of the RA that proposers be eligible to obtain a U.S. security clearance.

4．I hold an H1B Visa. Am I eligible to submit?

A: YFA is open to Foreign Nationals and does not distinguish between types of work visas. As stated in the RA (Section III-A), "Foreign participants and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary Non-Disclosure Agreements, Security Regulations, Export Control Laws, and other governing statues applicable under the circumstances." Also, please note that you do not have to be able to obtain a U.S. security clearance to be eligible for YFA 2012.

5. Q: What are the eligibility requirements with regards to tenure? Have they changed from prior year requirements?

A: The RA requirements regarding eligibility have not changed from the 2011 YFA RA. Section III-A of DARPA-RA-12-12 states that "Participation is limited to untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 5 years of appointment to a current tenure-track position at a U.S. institution of higher education." A proposer must meet the eligibility requirements provided in RA12-12, Section III-A at the time that he or she submits a proposal.

6. Q: In what topic is my research most applicable?

A: It is up to you to choose the most appropriate topic area for your proposed research. As stated in the RA, please note that "DARPA reserves the right to assign proposals to a different topic area than what was proposed."

7. Q: My idea fits into multiple topic areas and/or subtopic areas. May I submit to all topics and/or subtopics that are applicable?

A: No. You may submit to ONE and only one topic area and ONE subtopic area if applicable. It is up to you as the proposer to choose a topic area/ and or subtopic area from the thirteen technical topic areas listed in DARPA-RA-12-12 that most closely aligns with your proposed idea.

8. Q: My proposed idea is X. Is this of interest? Can I get confirmation that my research fits within the scope of one of the twelve technical areas listed in DARPA-RA-12-12?

A: The topic areas are purposefully broad to allow proposers to have maximum creativity in their responses. No further guidance will be provided outside of the technical information listed in the RA.

9. Q: Is there a limit on the number of applicants who may apply from a single institution?

A: No.

10. Q: Can my budget include money to support graduate students and post doctoral students helping me do the proposed research? Does my budget need to include overhead costs?

A: Your budget may include funds for graduate students and post doctoral students. Additionally, your budget will need to include all overhead costs. Your total budget, including both of these funds, must fall within the budget parameters set by the RA (maximum $150K per year for two years).

11. Q: Can I fund activities at another organization in support of my YFA research project?

A: YFA awards will be single investigator grants, and as such, you cannot have a subcontractor on your YFA proposal. You can pay for services such as materials processing or integrated circuit fabrication at another organization; however, funds for these services must be included in the proposal budget which cannot exceed $150k per year over two years for a total of a $300k maximum award.

12. Q: I would like to request a meeting with a specific YFA topic POC. Is this possible?

A: No. Unfortunately, due to the high volume of responses to this RA, YFA topic POCs are unable to accommodate such meetings. However, if you have a specific question you may send it to DARPA-RA-12-12@darpa.mil.

13. Q: Am I required to submit an Executive Summary Slide as per the provided template in Attachment 1 of DARPA-RA-12-12.

A: Yes, it is a requirement of DARPA-RA-12-12 that the Executive Summary Slide in Attachment 1 is completed as outlined in Section IV: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.

14. Q: If I am not with a university but collaborate with a university; am I eligible?

A: The RA states that "This RA solicits ground-breaking single investigator proposals from junior faculty for research and development in the areas of Physical Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Biology, and Information and Social Sciences…" and that "Participation is limited to untenured Assistant or Associate Professors within 5 years of appointment to a tenure-track position at a U.S. institution of higher education." The research announcement is not open to any other organizations or entities in any capacity.

15. What is a transmittal letter?

A: A transmittal letter is a standard official letter that will need to come from your institution. Please reach out to your University's Research Office for further information and guidance.

17. I never received an email of verification from DARPA for my proposal. Was my proposal submitted properly and did DARPA receive my proposal?

A: There are no automated responses from DARPA for grants.gov submissions but DARPA has access to all proposals properly submitted through grants.gov as they come in. Verification from grants.gov will be the only verification you receive that your proposal has been submitted. Please provide your grants.gov control number/tracking number in all future correspondence regarding your submission. However, if you have a specific question about your submission status you may send it to DARPA-RA-12-12@darpa.mil.